

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL GUIDES OUTSTANDING STUDENT TO HONORS IN MATH, UNIVERSITY STUDIES WHILE STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, I personally commended an exceptional 13-year-old boy who has brought honor to himself, his family, and the D.C. public schools through his outstanding academic accomplishments. Gilbert Wang was the third highest scorer in the District in the recent MathCounts competition, and has also triumphed in the citywide Geography Bee, as well as excelling in all his other subjects.

Gilbert Wang is an eighth grader at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School. He completed his first algebra class in the fifth grade (making a special trip to Jefferson for the course) with a perfect score of 100 percent. In the sixth grade, he traveled to Jefferson to study geometry, which he also completed with a 100 percent score. Continuing his advanced coursework in mathematics, Gilbert took trigonometry with ninth-graders while he was in the seventh grade. He recently completed a precalculus course at George Washington University with a grade of "A". Next year Gilbert will attend School Without Walls, an innovative public high school where students pursue advanced placement curricula, and attend many special courses off-campus and universities. Gilbert will probably graduate from high school in the tenth grade.

The D.C. public schools recognized Gilbert's talents early on, and offered him the opportunity to excel that he has so wonderfully used. Jefferson principal Vera White has been one of Gilbert's strongest supporters. The D.C. public schools have nurtured Gilbert's talents, while also keeping in mind that although he may be a prodigy, Gilbert is nevertheless a 13-year-old boy with special needs. While Jefferson has assisted Gilbert in obtaining scholarships for his advanced university coursework, the school, and Gilbert's parents, have helped him maintain an environment where he can learn and socialize with his peers as well. This outstanding child has thrived in the D.C. public school system. The schools have provided him with opportunities to make the most of his extraordinary abilities, and with innovative education options have offered him a chance to explore and grow outside of the traditional educational structure, but within the public school system.

Gilbert Wang is truly exceptional, and he has been exceptionally well served by the D.C. public school system. I offered by most heartfelt congratulations and support to Gilbert and his parents, and to Jefferson Junior High School, and its principal and teachers.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine and a history buff recently conducted extensive research into various military heroes and notables, mainly involving service in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. I would like to share his findings with my colleagues and recognize these individuals for their accomplishments.

DEAR SONNY: You have the advantage of me in that you have had the luxury of world travel in order to honor and see to the memory and remains-recovery of U.S. veterans. I have been nowhere but to the public library. It is one of the few free hobbies that can be indulged by retired typewriter mechanics with young families. It is interesting what you can find in a public library, even one as small as the Kemper-Newton Regional Library here in Union.

You have done a splendid job of bringing to a climax the honoring of U.S. veterans, both dead and alive at this fiftieth anniversary of the climax of the second world war. The purpose of this letter is to plead for you to bring some publicity on some forgotten people, perhaps some of the earliest victims of that war.

The first one to mention has had some degree of recognition, since he was the first victim of the Japanese, dating all the way back to 1923. His name was Col. Earl Hancock "Pete" Ellis, who was sent into the Pacific to see what was happening out there, in the year 1923, and the best evidence has it that he was poisoned by the Japanese. If your high-paid liars up there in Washington will re-write the Enola Gay story, I am sure they won't mind thinking up a nice cover-up story to keep from offending the Japanese about Col. Ellis, but it would be to your credit to have him remembered as likely to be the first victim of the Pacific theater.

Another veteran who paid a very high price for doing his best job was a Navy carrier pilot named Winfield Scott Cunningham. I am sure that everyone in Washington has Commander Cunningham neatly swept under the rug, but his service is a matter of record. He was in command of Wake Island at the time of the Japanese capture of it. He was placed in a Japanese prison in Shanghai, China, the same one in which the Jimmy Doolittle Tokyo raid survivors were detained in. He had to be telling a true story, because the B-25 crewmen exchanged messages with him before they were released. Both Cunningham's book, and the Tokyo Raid story, back each other up. When Commander Cunningham was released from prison and repatriated, he discovered to his surprise, that the Marine Corps legend, as portrayed by William Bendix and others in the movie "Wake Island," and gently nudged on its way by Capt. Devereaux and other Marine officers had in effect, become "fact" and he was never able to get his story heard or believed during his lifetime. By the time he was seriously trying to do that, Gen. Devereaux was in command of the Marines, and Cunningham was completely left out of the

Wake Island story. Even after his death, his wife was not able to get him properly recognized and believed about it. You can easily read up on him by referencing Winfield Scott Cunningham in the Library of Congress, and by taking a walk down to the National Archives and Records Service and looking at his pay stubs for December, 1941. Surely the Marines did not steal his pay records out of the files. Sonny, he would have had to be in command of the island, because of the military law that only an aviator can command where there are air forces, and there was a Marine squadron of Grumman Wildcats on the island. Capt. Devereaux could not possibly have been command of the island, because he was a "ground pounder" officer and was not entitled to do it. In the movie they had the island commander conveniently lie down and die, so the Marines could do their thing, but in real life, Commander Cunningham spent the war in a Japanese prison. It would be to your credit to have this veteran properly remembered, and an apology extended to his descendants, for the post-war denials of his story. A posthumous medal might even be in order.

The next veteran I would have you to honor at this perfect time in history is perhaps the one who contributed the most personal valor of the war, outside of the contribution of being maimed or killed in action. I am referring to Gen. Claire Lee Chennault. He entered the war against Japan as commander of the Chinese Air Force under Madame Chiang Kai-shek's direction, and was credited with 37 victories against the Japanese in the air, even before the U.S. began involvement as the American Volunteer Group in China. Under Chennault's leadership, more was done with greater success, with the least people and equipment, for the longest time, than in any air war in history, and sadly, with the least amount of credit. After fighting an almost single-handed war, for eight years, Chennault was finally convinced that he had more enemies in Washington than in Tokyo, and retired. His story is well-documented in several books, and you can read every word of it. I think it a blight on the record of the U.S. military, that after being first to take command against the Japs, he was not even invited to the final surrender ceremony. Gen. MacArthur verified the size of the oversight, forever, by looking around the battleship Missouri, and saying: "Where's Chennault?"

The last two veterans I would have you recognize and honor, if the government will admit that any honor be due, were perhaps the second and third casualties of the Pacific war, namely Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan, who "disappeared" on their famous "around the world flight." Sonny, I have read every book I can get my hands on, to date, and hoping to find more about the last flight of these two people. In light of the tons of evidence, and entire lifetimes spent by researchers on the subject, there seems to be little doubt that these two people were working in some sort of espionage role for the U.S. government when they disappeared on that mission. The Amelia Earhart story, in my opinion, sets a world record for the most duplicity, the most lies, many of them in the highest places, the most "fishy" identities of people, the most people claiming to do one thing and then doing another, from her husband George Putnam to the President

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